

Two Projects Will Create Dozens of Local Jobs, Could Save Billions in Energy Costs, Protect Troops Serving on Front Lines

Vestal, NY - Congressman Maurice Hinchey (D-NY) today was joined by Binghamton University (BU) officials to announce that he has secured approval of \$9 million from the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Defense for two Department of Defense (DoD) energy efficiency research projects.

"As the largest energy consumer in the world, the military is beginning to embrace a new culture to address the department's use of energy," said Hinchey who used his position on the Defense Subcommittee to secure the funding. "These projects will help BU create dozens of local jobs, save billions in energy costs and help protect our troops serving on the front lines in Afghanistan and Iraq."

The \$9 million is divided into two projects, including a \$6 million project that would help DoD reduce energy consumption by computer server farms; the massive banks of computers that manage traffic for websites, email hosts and company networks. Binghamton University, which has already conducted nearly \$1.4 million worth of research in this area over the past decade, would collaborate with the U.S. Army Armament Research Development and Engineering Center (ARDEC) in Picatinny, New Jersey to develop the new technologies. The project is expected to create 26 local jobs and has the potential to deliver nearly \$318 million in energy savings for New York State companies and \$3 billion in savings for companies across the country.

"Binghamton University is very pleased for Congressman Hinchey's support on this funding for exciting and essential projects for our faculty," said Dr. Gerald Sonnenfeld, Vice President of Research at Binghamton University. "The federal government's investments in Binghamton University have enabled us to amass the expertise and infrastructure to work in partnership with government, industry and academia that will create technologies impacting energy efficient electronic systems, the environment, and national security."

A separate \$3 million project would research ways in which the Marine Corps can develop Energy Efficient and Survivable Tent Technology to achieve up to a 75 percent reduction in fuel needs and increased protection for military personnel. The Marine Corps recently reported that

it uses 800,000 gallons of fuel per day in Afghanistan, necessitating hundreds of soldier trips to transport the fuel. Approximately half of the U.S. military casualties in Iraq and Afghanistan are related to attacks on convoys.

"Improving energy efficiency in the battlefield is critical to the safety of our troops serving on the front lines," said Hinchey. "According to the Army, reducing fuel consumption by only one percent in Iraq during 2007 would have prevented the need for 6,444 soldier trips. With half of U.S. military casualties in Iraq and Afghanistan directly related to attacks on convoys, reducing the need to transport fuel will help save lives."

While approval by the Defense Subcommittee is the most critical step in the process, the \$9 million in funding must now be approved by the full House Appropriations Committee and then the full House. Over the last two years, Hinchey has secured \$8 million in federal investments to further establish Binghamton University as a leader in solar energy research and development. The funding for the school's Center for Autonomous Solar Power (CASP) is spurring economic growth in the Southern Tier and positioning the school and the region's businesses as leaders in providing cutting-edge technology for defense, aerospace, consumer and industrial markets through solar power designs that will contribute to operational and logistical efficiency.